

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FREEDOM AND FAIRNESS
RESTORATION ACT

HON. RICHARD K. ARMEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing with Senator SHELBY the Freedom and Fairness Restoration Act, which features a flat tax on all income as a complete replacement for today's complex, archaic Tax Code.

I first introduced this bill June 16, 1994, and since that time have received over 5,000 letters of enthusiastic support. They include such phrases as "Yes! Yes! Yes!" "It's about time" "Hallelujah" "Let's do it" and "Amen!"

In my view, the American people support the flat tax because of four chief virtues—it's simple, honest, pro-growth, and fair. It's simple enough Americans can file their taxes on a return the size of a postcard. It's honest because it shows us right up front how much Government is costing us. It will promote economic growth and raise living standards because it eliminates the bias against saving, slashes marginal tax rates, and allows resources to seek their most efficient use. Finally, it's fair because it is true to the uniquely American definition of fairness: Everyone should be treated the same.

Mr. Speaker, the flat tax is more than just a tax system which provides Americans the convenience of filing postcard-sized returns. It's also a vision of what America can be again—a formula for rejuvenating our economy, freeing our entrepreneurial talent, and reviving stagnant family wages. It's a commonsense plan for returning to a Government that is simple, honest, and fair to all our citizens. And who knows? It might just restore people's ability to trust their Government. And this is why the flat tax is in America's future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the summary of my bill be included in the RECORD following my statement.

AMERICAN DREAM IN DANGER

WHY WE NEED THE FREEDOM AND FAIRNESS
RESTORATION ACT

Our government is too big, and it spends, taxes, and regulates too much. This is the central crisis facing America today. Consider

More Americans work for government than are employed in manufacturing.

The U.S. public sector is now larger than the entire economy of any country in the world except Japan and the United States itself.

The average American family pays more in taxes than it spends on food, clothing, and shelter combined.

Every American works from January 1 to July 10, more than half the year, not to support a family, but just to pay the costs of government taxes and regulation.

AN UNFAIR TAX SYSTEM

Perhaps the greatest ball-and-chain on America's freedom and prosperity is the in-

come tax. After eight decades of being "reformed," our tax system is so complex . . .

Even the Internal Revenue Service can no longer give accurate advice on it.

The IRS sends out eight billion pages of forms and instructions each year. Laid end to end, these would stretch 28 times the circumference of the earth.

Americans spend 5.4 billion man-hours each year calculating their taxes—more man-hours than it takes to build every car, truck and van produced in the United States.

The tax code puts a drag on our economy worth an estimated \$232 billion a year in compliance costs, an amount equal to \$900 for every man, woman, and child in the country.

A FUNDAMENTAL CHOICE

Government has become America's number one growth industry—and a danger to the American Dream. As a nation, we face a fundamental choice: Should the government become ever larger as our freedom diminishes? Or should we take dramatic action now to halt the growth of government and restore greater freedom for our citizens? The Freedom and Fairness Restoration Act says, Enough is enough. Its authors believe ordinary Americans are better equipped to make their own financial decisions than politicians and tax lobbyists in a far-off capital. More than a sweeping overhaul of the tax code, the FFRA is a comprehensive assault on oversized government, designed to halt its growth, expose its true cost, and limit its influence on the lives of free Americans. It would radically reorder the tax and spending activities of the government. Here's what it would mean for America:

1. Creates a flat tax

Simple. Replaces the current complicated tax system with a flat tax so simple Americans can file their taxes on a form the size of a postcard.

Fair. Repeals special preferences in the tax code and is true to the uniquely American definition of fairness: Everyone should be treated the same.

Pro-growth. Ends double taxation of saving, thus promoting investment and job creation. Rewards work by lowering marginal tax rates. Creates a neutral tax system which will liberate individuals to make financial decisions based on common sense economics, not arcane tax rules.

Pro-family. Eliminates the marriage penalty. Effectively doubles the deduction for dependent children. By ending the double taxation of savings, provides all Americans with the tax equivalent of an unlimited Individual Retirement Account.

Pro-taxpayer. Protects taxpayers by requiring a supermajority of Congress to raise the tax rate or add loopholes.

Paid for. Raises nearly as much money as the current tax system, while providing the American people with a modest tax cut, paid for with spending cuts.

2. Controls spending

Sets rigid spending caps. Sets unbreachable caps on federal spending that will ensure spending growth is limited and the federal budget reaches balance by the year 2002.

Sunset: most programs. Genuinely reinvents government by ending the legal authorization for most federal programs, thus requiring Congress to fundamentally reexamine programs before spending taxpayer dollars on them.

THE FREEDOM AND FAIRNESS RESTORATION
ACT

BILL SUMMARY

History. The FFRA was introduced by Rep. Dick Armey of Texas on June 16, 1994, and subsequently introduced in the 104th Congress by Congressman Armey and Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama on July 19, 1995. Copies of the bill, which is designated H.R. 1060 in the House and S. 1050 in the Senate, may be obtained by calling the House Document Room at (202) 225-3456. The bill is divided into two sections, called titles.

TITLE 1—A NEW, FAIR TAX SYSTEM

Replaces the income tax with a 17 percent flat tax

The bill repeals today's complicated income tax system in toto and replaces it with a low, simple flat tax. Under the bill, every dollar of income in the economy is taxed, with wage and pension income collected from individuals and all other income collected from businesses. Individuals pay 17 percent of wage income calculated on a return so simple it can fit on a postcard. Businesses pay 17 percent of business income, calculated on an equally simple return.

Individual Wage Tax. Individuals pay 17 percent of all wages, salaries, and pensions, after subtracting family allowances. When fully phased in in 1998, the family allowances will be \$11,350 for a single person, \$22,700 for a married couple filing jointly, and \$5,300 for each dependent. These allowances are indexed to inflation. The flat tax replaces the current income tax system, but not Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes. Social Security benefits would not be taxed.

Business Tax. All business income, whatever the source (corporate, partnership, sole proprietor, professional, farm, and rental profits and royalties) is taxed at the one low rate. Businesses pay 17 percent of the difference, if positive, between revenues and expenses. Expenses are defined as purchases of goods and services, capital equipment, structures, land, wages and contributions to employee retirement plans. No deductions are permitted for fringe benefits, interest, or payments to owners. Collecting business income earned by individuals at its source—the business—allows for a simple, airtight system that ensures all income in the economy is taxed.

Benefits of the flat tax

Simplicity. Because the existing system's maze of exemptions, loopholes, depreciation schedules, graduated rates, and targeted tax breaks is eliminated, taxpayers will save countless hours and expense in filing their yearly tax returns. The Tax Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization which closely monitors federal tax policy, estimates the flat tax would reduce compliance costs by 94 percent.

Fairness. The flat tax will restore fairness to the tax law by treating everyone the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

same. No matter how much money you make, what kind of business you're in, whether or not you have a lobbyist in Washington, you will be taxed at the same rate as everyone else. While applying only the single rate to all income, the flat tax is also progressive—thanks to the generous family allowance. A family of four earning \$30,000 would pay no income tax, the same family earning \$50,000 would pay 6 percent, and the family earning \$200,000 would pay 14 percent. The family allowances also take millions of lower-income taxpayers off the tax rolls entirely.

Economic Growth. By eliminating the bias against saving, slashing marginal tax rates, and allowing resources to seek their most efficient use, the bill will spur productive investment and economic growth. If the bill passed this year, it would increase the annual income of the typical American family by \$4,300 by 2002.

Protects against higher deficits

The bill is carefully designed to safeguard taxpayers against higher deficits. In the first year after enactment, the tax rate is set at 20 percent to provide modest tax relief while limiting initial revenue loss. This initial tax cut is fully paid for with cuts in federal spending. In the third year, the rate is lowered to 17 percent, providing additional tax relief. Lowering the rate will be possible for two reasons. First, the bill's low marginal rate and neutral treatment of saving will spur economic growth and thus expand revenue to the Treasury. Second, the bill's spending reforms, detailed in Title 2 below, will reduce expenditures. In short, higher revenue coupled with lower spending will reduce future deficits, free up resources to be returned to the American people, and thus permit a freedom dividend to the American taxpayer in the form of a lower tax rate.

Guards against higher taxes

To help prevent a future Congress from raising taxes, rewarding a special interest, or complicating the tax code, the bill contains a provision which requires a 60 percent supermajority of the House and Senate to (1) raise the tax rate, (2) create multiple tax rates, (3) lower the family allowance, or (4) add a loophole.

TITLE 2—REAL SPENDING RESTRAINT

Sunset most federal programs

All discretionary and unearned entitlement programs are sunset, i.e., set to expire automatically, within two years of enactment of the bill, and again following each decennial census thereafter. The following earned entitlements are not sunset: Social Security, Medicare, veterans' benefits, federal retirement. Across-the-board sunset will force Congress to reexamine every program individually and decide which ones deserve to be continued rather than which ones should be cut—the true way to reinvent government.

Caps entitlement spending

The bill provides that the total level of entitlement spending, excluding Social Security, may not exceed the increase in inflation as measured by the consumer price index, plus the growth in eligible population. If the increase in these programs, exceeds this level, an automatic entitlement sequester to eliminate the excess spending will fall on all entitlements except Social Security.

Entitlement spending now accounts for more than half of all federal spending and is the fastest growing portion of the budget. The entitlement sequester will place strong pressure on Congress to make genuine re-

forms when reauthorizing sunsetted programs.

Caps total federal spending

The bill sets caps on overall federal spending, bringing the federal budget to balance by the year 2002. If spending exceeded the maximum spending amount established in law, an across-the-board sequester would cut 80 percent from domestic discretionary spending and 20 percent from defense spending.

The bill also contains a "look-back sequester." On July 1 of each fiscal year, the President's Office of Management and Budget is required to determine the extent to which the spending cap may be exceeded. If OMB finds the limit will be exceeded, a look-back sequester will eliminate the excess spending under the same 80-20 formula.

Brings the President back into the budget process

The bill restores the President to full participation in the annual budget process by requiring that Congress pass a joint resolution, which requires his signature, rather than a concurrent resolution, which does not require his signature, at the beginning of the process each year. Requiring a joint resolution not only restores some of the President's lost influence over spending, but it prevents the House and Senate from disregarding the budget resolution, because a joint resolution, unlike a concurrent one, has the force of law.

TRIBUTE TO ZELMAR STEVENSON GORDON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Zelman Stevenson Gordon as she celebrates her retirement from Browne Junior High School in the District of Columbia.

Mrs. Gordon was born in Florence, SC, to the late Rev. Leo T. Stevenson and Mrs. Utensile Jackson Stevenson. She was educated in the Florence County public schools and later received her bachelor of science degree from Savannah State College. Mrs. Gordon continued her post graduate studies at the University of the District of Columbia.

Mrs. Gordon's teaching career began in Georgia as a classroom teacher. In 1964 she moved to Washington, DC, and began her career with the District of Columbia public schools. After more than 30 years of service in education, she is retiring from Browne Junior High School, where she has served as a teacher and assistant principal. Truly, her commitment to education has taken her well beyond the call of duty. In addition to her duties as assistant principal, Mrs. Gordon sponsored many after-school programs designed to keep children from the ills of society, including school trips and educational enrichment.

Active in her community, Mrs. Gordon is a member of Trinidad Baptist Church, where she sings in the gospel chorus and works diligently to serve the church and community. Her civic and professional affiliations include: Delta Pi Epsilon National Professional Honorary Society for Business Education, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and the Fort Washington Area Boys and Girls Clubs.

A dedicated family person, she is married to John Gordon and is the mother of three sons, Jeffard, Jon, and Jason. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mrs. Zelman Stevenson Gordon on her retirement and join her family and friends in saluting her on July 22, 1995, at the Trinidad Baptist Church in Washington, DC.

ATTITUDES TOWARD EDUCATION

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, July 12, 1995 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOOSIER ATTITUDES TOWARD EDUCATION

One of the more interesting questions to ask Hoosiers is what they expect from the public schools. My general impression is that Hoosiers have a favorable opinion of public education in their own community, but they have many opinions about improving the quality of education.

Teaching the basics: Hoosier parents strongly support effective teaching of the basics. They want their children to master the essential skills of the ability to read and write English, to do arithmetic, and to have a good basic understanding of science, history and geography.

I find that Hoosiers generally give their local elementary and secondary schools high marks and think very well of the teachers, principals, programs and overall effort. Most parents believe that their children are well prepared for work and higher education.

Employers and college educators do not always agree. They frequently find missing the discipline and dedication to learning, and proficiency in the basic literary and computational skills. They also want to see more emphasis on standards of behavior, such as how to speak and dress properly, and how to be punctual.

I am always impressed by how traditional Hoosiers are in their approach to education. Adults seem to think they got a better education in the basics than children are getting today. They certainly want to see academic standards raised and they believe that schools should hold students accountable for doing their best.

I also find among Hoosiers some discomfort with the new teaching methods that educators often espouse, such as the teaching of English composition by encouraging students to use the written word early and often with less emphasis on spelling and grammar; or the new math which places more emphasis on teaching theories and concepts as opposed to learning by rote.

Discipline and safety: Parents emphasize repeatedly the importance of schools providing a safe and orderly environment in which education takes place. Their biggest concern is the lack of discipline in the local school system and they always put discipline as the most important factor needed for a student to learn along with good teaching.

Parents recognize that providing a safe and orderly environment conducive to learning is a much more difficult task today than it was in their generation. They believe that the schools have to be very tough in emphasizing good habits such as being on time and being disciplined and dependable.

Across the country there is deep concern about drugs and gun violence in the nation's schools. I really do not find much emphasis on that in talking with Hoosiers about Indian schools but there is some concern about gangs, fighting and other disciplinary problems. They certainly do not approve of students bringing drugs or weapons to school.

Traditional values: I have been especially interested in the attitude of Hoosiers toward the teaching of values, morals and character. Parents want public schools to teach values, but they put strong emphasis on tolerance. Hoosiers understand, however, that the best schools cannot take the place of a strong and loving family.

Parents are quite clear about the values they want taught: honesty, respect for others, solving problems without violence and a heavy emphasis on equality, fairness and getting along with other students. They like the idea that all of us should live together harmoniously and believe schools have to teach values which unite us as a nation, rather than divide us on racial and ethnic lines.

Most seem to favor teaching specific moral values in the classroom, but when it comes to a broad concept of character education Hoosiers seem divided, many of them supporting it but many of them saying it should be left to the parents and the churches.

Federalism issues: Hoosiers favor the longstanding approach of having state and local governments take primary responsibility for elementary and high school education. They believe that decisions on school curricula, administration and organization should be made at the state and local levels, not in Washington. They reject the federal government mandating education goals and standards.

Hoosiers strongly favor federal support for higher education, particularly in providing grants, loans and other federal assistance to students from moderate income families. Many parents tell me of the importance of sending their children to college, but express concerns about the rising costs of a college education. For many families, federal education assistance makes a difference in whether and where a child can go to college.

Conclusion: A strong education system in Indiana and around the country is important for many reasons. It helps boost the productivity of our economy, which means higher living standards for workers and their families. It also means Americans better able to participate in the workings of democracy, and, most importantly, an improvement in the quality of individual lives. One of the best investments our country can make is in education.

I share the priority Hoosier parents give to education. I agree that state and local governments must take the lead on education issues. The federal government can, where appropriate, lend a helping hand, but should focus its main efforts on providing a strong and healthy economy which can free up resources at the state and local level for education programs.

I do not believe Congress should meddle in the educational affairs of the nation's schools. It should not write guidelines for instruction, textbooks or tests, or teacher preparation, or other matters. Congress must be extremely careful that in pushing for national standards it exercise restraint, and not try to direct what is taught, how it is taught, and how it is tested. Schools work best when they are managed by people closest to them.

COMPREHENSIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS REFORM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, as we begin debate on comprehensive telecommunications reform, this statement offers a unique perspective on one aspect of the industry.

GOVERNMENT CAN CONTINUE SERVICES WITH
PAY-PER-CALL

(By Richard J. Gordon, Chairman,
Teleservices Industry Association)

When Abraham Lincoln was President there were no telegraph machines in the White House. To receive reports from his generals on Civil War battlefields, the President had to walk to the building next door. That building housed the federal government's only telegraph equipment, equipment already commonplace to the railroads and a good many private businesses.

Until Herbert Hoover was President, the Oval Office did not have a telephone. By the time there was one on the President's desk, millions already were in heavy use by businesses and private citizens.

American businessmen have long been ahead of their governments in accepting, developing and using the latest technology.

Today, audiotext, already a four-billion-dollar business in the private sector, finally is getting attention in the public sector. Both state and federal government agencies, such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, are taking advantage of pay-per-call.

At the Office of Planning and Building in Sacramento, California, citizens can telephone a 900 number, request information by punching in their fax numbers and receive copies of requested documents in about the time it will take the reader to finish this article.

Moreover, to provide information on over one million corporations, New York's Department of State operates a 900 number that costs a caller \$4.00 per call. This "teleshopping" keeps seven people busy answering some 500 calls per day. What once cost the State \$250,000 yearly to answer telephone inquiries, now is a faster service whose users bear the costs.

To appreciate the value of teleservices, one only has to visit his local Department of Motor Vehicles, Post Office or wait in line or on "hold for the next available customer service representative." To all for whom time is money, pay-per-call to access government is an attractive and economical option.

It is not a new idea that those most benefiting from government services should pay a charge. For nearly forty years, gasoline taxes and license fees have, in whole or in part, financed state and federal highway systems.

Why do trucks pay higher fees than automobiles? Everyone seems to accept the logic of the answer: they use the highways more and wear them out faster.

It is difficult to determine why it has taken so long for government to serve its "customers" with efficient pay-per-call applications.

Perhaps citizens had become too accustomed to free access, free information and even free publications from their governments.

Ironically, we have come to accept that banks and other businesses bill for a myriad

of services which were once free-of-charge. Customers now accept that service, and more specifically "fast" and "express" services, have monetary value.

The Contract with America, passed by the new majority in Congress, cuts the cost of government by reducing services. Deferring costs by requiring users to pay for "instant" service may be the only way for some government agencies to justify their continuance.

Another boost to government lethargy has been the bad rap given the 900 industry through its early and nearly-exclusive use as an adult service.

Because of the industry's own determined efforts to protect its services from improper and illegal usage, adult services using 900 numbers virtually have disappeared. Most applications that utilize a 900 number now fall under the category of Business-to-Business Teleservices.

Today, every touch-tone telephone is a miniature market. With access to 800 and 900 numbers, callers can order merchandise, obtain personal bank balances, have their voices heard or their votes tallied, and be talked through astonishingly complete menus for ordering an amazing array of goods and services.

Once again, the private sector has embraced a new technology, enhanced it with countless unique and practical innovations, significantly improved lives and created profits.

Now it is past time for government to assess its own timid samplings, to observe the widespread public uses and applications, and to bring to citizens and taxpayers the efficiencies and economies of broader use of pay-per-call services.

100 BLACK MEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 100 Black Men of Jackson, MS who hosted the 100 Black Men of America National Convention July 10 through 15, 1995 in Jackson, MS. This organization is a welcome force in the Jackson community. Members volunteer their time and effort to work with economically disadvantaged youths. They visit schools, take students to their place of employment and entertainment events that introduce them to a segment of life that they would not ordinarily get an opportunity to come in contact with. Members of the Jackson, MS chapter include college presidents, a congressman, businessmen, clergymen, doctors, lawyers, and many other professionals.

The national organization was founded in 1976, and strives to improve the quality of life for African-Americans and other minorities. This organization, not only defines problems but attacks them head on. Through its mentoring program, the organization serves as role models for low-income African-American males from single parent households. Many of these youths are becoming first generation college students.

The African-American community is plagued by alarming statistics indicating that 50 percent of U.S. black males drop out of high school and that, more black males are involved with the criminal justice system, either

in prison, on probation or parole, than in college. These statistics emphasize the need more than ever for the 100 Black Men.

Please join me in saluting the 100 Black Men of Jackson, MS.

TRIBUTE TO ALMENIA STEVENSON WILLIAMS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Almenia Stevenson Williams as she celebrates her retirement from Anacostia Senior High School in the District of Columbia.

Mrs. Williams was born in Florence, SC to the late Reverend Leo T. Stevens and Utensile Jackson Stevenson. She was educated in the Florence County public schools and later received her bachelor of science degree in business education from Savannah State College and master of arts degree from the Catholic University of America. She furthered her studies at the University of the District of Columbia, Howard University and Trinity College.

Mrs. Williams began her teaching career in the public schools of Cedartown, GA. In 1966, she began her 29-year career with the District of Columbia public schools, serving at Anacostia Senior High School for the past 16 years. Mrs. Williams' dedication to students is not limited to the confines of classroom instruction. She served as the Student Government sponsor and worked with the Future Business Leaders of America.

In addition to dedicated service to her profession, Mrs. Williams is active in numerous civic and professional organizations including the National Business Education Association, Ladies First Aid Union of Churches, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is also a longtime member of Trinidad Baptist Church, where she is the business manager for the chorus choir and the recording secretary for the nurses unit. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mrs. Almenia Stevenson Williams on her retirement and join her family and friends in saluting her on July 22, 1995 at Trinidad Baptist Church.

THE SUPREME COURT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, July 19, 1995 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE SUPREME COURT

The U.S. Supreme Court recently completed its 1994-1995 term. While the subject of the Supreme Court doesn't come up very often in my discussions with Hoosiers, the Court's actions have a significant impact on the lives of all Americans.

This term was marked by the emergence of a strong and unified conservative majority

on the Court. The conservatives displayed a desire to reconsider long-settled constitutional principles on everything from race and religion to federalism and privacy. This is a Court with an activist's appetite and reach. It is the political conservatives on the Court who are casting aside precedents and making new law. It is the so-called liberals who are constantly pushing judicial restraint and respect for continuity. The conservatives on the Court who for years have been deploring judicial activism are now judicially very active.

It is premature to say whether this conservative brand of judicial activism will continue in future years. The conservative majority holds a narrow 5-4 edge on the Court, and two of the Justices, O'Connor and Kennedy, appear to be reluctant activists, struggling where possible to find common ground with their more liberal colleagues; and Chief Justice Rehnquist is likely to retire in the near future. Even so, the conservatives are, at least for the time being, making their mark on the Court.

What follows is a summary of the key decisions from this term.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The Court issued several decisions which weaken the legal underpinnings of affirmative action. While all the cases were decided by narrow 5-4 majorities, they reflect a strong aversion to affirmative action programs and will have wide-ranging consequences.

In a case involving a federal highway construction project, the Court held that federal programs designed to benefit minorities are unconstitutional unless they serve a compelling government interest and are narrowly tailored to address past discrimination. The ruling will almost certainly have the effect of curtailing such programs.

In a second case involving the Kansas City school system, the Court ruled that the lower federal courts in Missouri had improperly ordered the state to help pay for a major school integration plan. The decision underscored the Court's impatience with continued federal court involvement in school desegregation cases.

In a third case involving a Georgia redistricting plan, the Court held that the use of race as a "predominant factor" in drawing district lines makes the districts presumptively unconstitutional. Many states, particularly in the South, had created majority-black or hispanic districts in the last round of redistricting in an effort to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act. The Court's decision, however, raises doubts about the constitutionality of most, if not all, of these plans, and may lead to the election of fewer blacks to Congress.

FEDERALISM

The Court also addressed fundamental questions about the distribution of power between states and the federal government. In one case, the Court overturned a federal law banning gun possession within 1000 feet of a school. Congress, in passing the law, had relied on its constitutional powers to regulate interstate commerce. The Court said Congress failed to prove that gun possession at or near schools had enough bearing on interstate commerce to justify federal involvement. The decision marked a striking departure for the Court, which has, for the last 60 years, tended to defer to Congressional judgment in this area. It is uncertain, however, whether the decision signals a broader attack on federal regulation under the Commerce Clause, or merely singles out a poorly drafted law.

In another, closely-watched case, the Court ruled that in the absence of a constitutional amendment, states may not limit the number of terms that members of Congress may serve. The decision had the effect of overturning term-limit measures approved in 23 states. The Court reasoned that the Constitution had clearly set forth the qualifications for service in Congress—age, residency and citizenship—and those qualifications could not be further restricted by the states. The House defeated a term limits amendment earlier this year, but the issue will likely be revisited next year.

OTHER KEY DECISIONS

The Court issued several other groundbreaking decisions this term. In one case, which will certainly have an impact on high schools in Indiana and around the country, the Court held that a school district may require that all students take drug tests as a condition of playing sports. In a victory for environmentalists, the Court held that federal regulators may stop private landowners from developing their property in ways that could destroy the habitat of endangered wildlife species.

Two religion cases opened the door to greater government accommodation of religious speech. First, the Court held that the University of Virginia must provide a financial subsidy to a student religious publication on the same basis as other student publications. This marks the first time the Court has ever approved government funding for a religious activity. Second, the Court ruled the Ku Klux Klan had a free speech right to erect a cross in a state park in Ohio.

CONCLUSION

This Court is engaging in a very fundamental debate on the very nature and source of the legitimacy of the national government. Several of the Justices have said that the federal government exists only to the extent that the states permit it to do so. This Court has a very deep skepticism about federal power.

Conservatives now control the Court, and even the left leaning Justices are hardly in the same camp as Blackmun, Brennan or Marshall. The Clinton appointments, Ginsburg and Breyer, are moderate on economic issues and fairly liberal on social issues. What's missing is a justice who sees the Court as a way to promote social justice. The new left is much more pragmatic than the old left.

Whatever the center of the Court ideologically speaking, it can be said that the present majority is fragile. The replacement of a single justice could make a big difference in the dynamics of the Court.

TRIBUTE TO MIGUEL ANGEL AMADEO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I join the community organization 52 People for Progress, Inc., to do honor to Mr. Miguel Amadeo for his noteworthy musical and public accomplishments. Mr. Amadeo is a dear personal friend and an invaluable member of our South Bronx community.

Better known as Mike, he started his musical career at the age of 16. Since then, he has

composed over 200 songs. A humble man, his talent has been shared with various prominent Latino artists such as Johnny Albino, Cuarterto Los Hispanos, Héctor Lavoe, Andy Montañez, Willie Colon, and Celia Cruz, among others.

Besides being a gifted and prolific composer, Mr. Amadeo is also a dedicated member of our South Bronx community. He has been a longtime supporter of the organization 52 People for Progress which aspires to improve the conditions of the community through music, culture, and art. He worked for 40 years serving customers at his record store, Casa Amadeo, in the South Bronx. Indeed, in the late 1970's when businesses were fleeing, Mike stayed, endured and continued to write his songs and serve his loyal clientele.

The music of Miguel Amadeo has enlightened and brought hope to thousands of listeners. His gentle nature has changed the lives of many individuals who have been touched by him. It is not frequent that we find both, musical talent and commitment to the community, in one individual.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize citizens like Mr. Amadeo, who with their talent, fortitude, diligence, and relentless dedication give back to their community and set an example for others to follow. Today, Mike will receive a well deserved public recognition in the same community theater he helped to build. I ask my colleagues to join me and the South Bronx community in conveying best wishes and deep gratitude to Mr. Miguel Amadeo.

CONGRESS' CONSENT IS NEEDED BY THE HISTORIC CHATTAHOOCHEE COMMISSION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with members of the Alabama and Georgia delegations, rise to introduce a measure on behalf of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, a State agency of both Alabama and Georgia.

On October 14, 1978, President Carter signed Public Law 95-462 which granted the consent of Congress to the Historic Chattahoochee Compact between the States of Alabama and Georgia. Earlier, both States had passed identical legislation to authorize the creation of this compact for the operation of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission. The Commission, a bi-State heritage tourism agency, serves 11 Georgia and 7 Alabama counties along the lower Chattahoochee River.

At present, the Historic Chattahoochee Commission's board nomination process is cumbersome. The commission's 28 board members—14 from each State—are appointed " * * * by the historical commission or organization or similar historical body or other designated authority in each of the counties represented by the Commission who shall be bona fide residents and qualified voters of the party states." In some counties, there are no historical or preservation groups and organizations. In other counties, there are two or three historical or preservation organizations. Coun-

ty or city governments and even some tourism or commerce organizations have been called upon to nominate board members in counties without historical or preservation groups. This process is often confusing and time consuming. In an effort to resolve this inefficiency, the Historical Chattahoochee Commission's board of directors proposed to amend the interstate compact to simplify the commission's board selection procedures. This legislation seeks to ease this process.

In 1993, the Alabama Legislature approved Act 93-643 and the Georgia General Assembly endorsed Act 326 which amended the Historical Chattahoochee Commission's interstate compact to provide for a different board selection process. This amendment, and the legislation I am introducing today, specifies that

The Commission shall consist of 28 members who shall be bona fide residents and qualified voters of the party states and counties served by the Commission. Election for vacant seats shall be by majority vote of the voting members of the Commission board at a regularly scheduled meeting.

On August 19, 1993, the Alabama Attorney General's office rendered an opinion that the Historical Chattahoochee Commission,

* * * cannot use the amended version of the enabling legislation to select new board members until the consent of Congress is given by the amending of Public Law 95-462.

On February 2, 1994, the Georgia Attorney General's office issued an opinion that:

* * * the Georgia amendment expressly requires that both the Georgia and Alabama amendments of the Historic Chattahoochee Compact be approved by Congress prior to becoming effective. Without such approval, the Commission does not have the authority to act under the Georgia or Alabama amendment.

With this requirement in mind, it is with pleasure that I join with my colleagues Representative BEVILL, Representative BISHOP, Representative BROWDER, Representative CRAMER, and Representative HILLIARD in seeing that the amendment to the Historic Chattahoochee Commission's interstate compact becomes effective. Senator SHELBY has introduced S. 848 in the Senate and he is joined in support by Senators HEFLIN, COVERDELL, and NUNN.

During the 104th Congress, I look forward to gaining the support of the House in advancing this legislation expeditiously, as it has already been approved by the States of Alabama and Georgia.

SYLACAUGA, AL, HONORS SINGER,
ACTOR JIM NABORS AS NATIVE
SON

HON. GLEN BROWDER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, Sylacauga, AL, is an exceptionally pleasant, attractive community in the Third District of Alabama, which I have the honor to represent in this House of Representatives. Members of the House may be familiar with the fact that the Capitol contains marble from Sylacauga. So

does the U.S. Supreme Court, the Lincoln Memorial and a number of other beautiful buildings across America.

Sylacauga is a small, progressive city with almost 25,000 residents. It has good schools, libraries, museums, parks, churches, and a diversified industrial base—all of the things that would make a person want to call Sylacauga home.

One of the city's best known native sons is Jim Nabors, who will be coming back home to Alabama on July 28. The occasion will be Jim's presentation of the memorabilia from his career in entertainment to the native son collection at Sylacauga's Isabel Anderson Comer Museum.

Jim's collection was assembled during more than 35 years as a singer, actor, and comedian. As many of us remember, Jim appeared for years as the star of "Gomer Pyle USMC" and later in the "Jim Nabors Hour," where his remarkable singing ability was featured.

Despite his international fame as a singer and entertainer, Jim has always taken pride in introducing himself to the world as a small town guy "from Sylacauga, AL." Obviously he has not forgotten where he came from and it is equally apparent that Sylacauga has not forgotten him.

In addition to the presentation and reception at the museum, Jim will participate in the grand finale of Sylacauga's outstanding program in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. He will open the celebration with his popular rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. He also will present awards and certificates of appreciation to veterans of World War II.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the city of Sylacauga on this valuable gift of Jim Nabors' memorabilia and to commend Jim for being the kind of person that his hometown is proud to remember.

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 16 I had the privilege of addressing a group of Ukrainian-Americans in Glen Spey, NY, concerning developments in the New Independent State of Ukraine.

In honor of the upcoming fourth anniversary of the independence of Ukraine, I would like to insert some of my remarks into the RECORD at this point for the review of my colleagues.

As we approach the anniversary of Ukrainian independence this August 24, I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing our very best wishes for the success of political and economic reforms in that important European State.

Mr. Speaker the text of my speech follows. I am hopeful that my colleagues may find it of interest.

It is good to be here with some of my good friends from the Ukrainian-American community.

I would like to take a moment to say a few things about Ukraine, now approaching the fourth anniversary of its independence.

The last few years have not been easy ones for the Ukrainian people.

Despite Ukraine's natural wealth—particularly in its agricultural resources—it has suffered greatly from its dependence on trade links purposely created by the former communist regime to control Ukraine—and from the physical and psychological residue left in the wake of many decades of communist repression, propaganda and corruption.

By no means, however, can Ukraine be considered as down and out.

As we all well know, Ukraine and its people have weathered far worse times—times of world war, times of civil war, times of mass starvation, and times of fascist and communist dictatorship and atrocities.

I am very confident that, with the help and understanding of its friends—particularly that of the United States—Ukraine will begin to gain its feet and move forward to the long-term prosperity and democracy it richly deserves.

I am more confident of this than ever before, given the strong leadership of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

Since his election last year, President Kuchma and his government have moved with determination to implement the economic reforms that Ukraine so badly needs.

In closing, let me note how the United States has helped and is continuing to help Ukraine in this difficult time.

We have provided vital assistance to Ukraine to help it begin retraining its military forces and to settle and retrain those of its troops that are demobilized as Ukraine dismantles its soviet-era nuclear missiles.

We have assisted Ukraine in arriving at agreements with Russia concerning Russian compensation for Ukrainian nuclear warheads and concerning Russian energy supplies for Ukraine.

I am also certain that at this time our government is continuing to advise the Ukrainian government on how to arrive at an acceptable agreement with Russia concerning the division and basing of the Soviet-era Black Sea Fleet.

The United States quite frankly played a crucial role in arranging the recent agreement of Ukrainian debt rescheduling.

That agreement helped Ukraine qualify for the billions of dollars in loans and credits it is now receiving from international financial institutions.

Finally, assistance from the United States in support of economic reforms in Ukraine is helping that country in several very important ways.

The United States is helping the Ukrainian government target its limited resources to best help the most needy segments of its population during the transformation to a market-based economy commences.

It is helping train Ukrainian entrepreneurs, bankers, businessmen and students.

The United States is helping transfer state-owned enterprises to private ownership by Ukrainian citizens.

It is helping Ukrainian energy industries to become more efficient and productive.

We are helping the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian Parliament to better organize themselves and operate in a manner that will fulfill their proper roles in a democratic government.

The United States is helping Ukraine find the means to shut down the dangerous reactors at Chernobyl—and to help the unfortunate victims of radiation poisoning from the 1986 reactor explosion, both in Ukraine and in neighboring Belarus.

Perhaps most important, United States assistance is helping fund programs to explain to the Ukrainian people the changes that are underway and how they will help build a better Ukraine for them and their children.

In closing, let us, as we look to the future, realize that we must continue to work to ensure the stability of Ukraine—because the stability of all of Europe may depend upon it.

In that regard, it makes a great deal of sense for us to continue assisting Ukraine and to work to see that Ukraine takes its rightful place in Europe, particularly with regard to organizations such as the European Union and NATO.

May God Bless America.

And, may God bless peace, democracy, and prosperity for Ukraine.

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLICAN LED CONGRESS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to taut a few of the accomplishments of the 104th Congress. Contrary to the claims of the Democratic Leadership Council that despite all the hype about the Republican revolution, the Republicans have offered very little, the Republican led Congress has ended business as usual in Congress and continues to lead the charge in implementing the changes mandated by the American people last November.

On the first day of the 104th Congress we passed the Congressional Accountability Act so that Congress applied all laws to itself that it imposes on everyone else. The House then proceeded to eliminate three committees and 25 subcommittees, to cut one-third of committee staff, to implement truth-in-budgeting baseline reform, to limit the terms of the Speaker and the committee and subcommittee chairmen, to ban proxy voting in committee, to open committee meetings to the public and to order first every comprehensive audit of its books.

The House for the first time ever approved a balanced budget amendment. Even though the Senate failed to pass the amendment, the House GOP committed to balance the budget by the year 2002. Six separate bills were passed to undo last year's flawed Clinton crime bill. The House passed a sweeping welfare reform bill that ends welfare as we know it by rewarding the dignity of work and self-respect over illegitimacy, family disintegration, and non contribution to society.

We provided much needed tax fairness to families so they can keep more of their hard earned money. We repealed the unfair Clinton tax hike on Social Security benefits, raised the earning limitations on seniors who work past the age of 65 so they are not punished for staying in the work force and provided tax incentive for long-term care coverage.

The Clean Water Act continues Congress' commitment to the environmental protection of our Nation's waterways while restoring common sense to environmental protection. We

have undone Clinton's efforts to hollow out the military and restored some money cut out over the past 2 years to ensure military readiness and modernization. We have eliminated and prioritized our Nation's overseas interests. We continue our commitment by eliminating three Federal agencies and two dozen foreign aid programs.

The rescission package is a first step toward a less costly Government. We cut \$16.4 billion in wasteful spending by eliminating unauthorized programs and consolidating duplicative programs. And we slashed our own spending in Congress by \$155 million.

Mr. Speaker, I venture to say that in 40 years of Democratic control, the Congress never accomplished as much as the Republican led 104th Congress. I would suggest our friends at the DLC take a closer look at their facts.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, which I chair, held a hearing on the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Women, currently scheduled to be held in Beijing later this summer.

Numerous eloquent witnesses called attention to certain features of the draft document that this conference will almost certainly adopt. While there is much that is positive in the document, there is also a systematic denigration of marriage, childrearing, and family. As was pointed out at our hearing by Cecilia Royals of the National Institute of Womanhood, the document disparages a central life experience of 90 percent of the world's women, and attempts to turn women who emphasize family life into a new marginalized class.

I would like to put before my colleagues the testimony of another witness: Diane Knippers, president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, and cochair of the Ecumenical Coalition on Women and Society [ECWS] Beijing team. Ms. Knipper's testimony offers several reasons for doubting the draft document's effectiveness as a tool for promoting the human rights of women.

TESTIMONY OF DIANE L. KNIPPERS

The adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948 gave the world a powerful mechanism for holding nations accountable for the basic rights of all persons. Sadly, in recent years we have seen efforts to erode these basic standards as authoritarian governments argue that human rights are not universal, but are culturally relative. But another form of erosion is more subtle, more insidious, and more dangerous. It is the trend toward defining every conceivable social goal as a human right—whether or not these social goals are properly the responsibilities of governments and whether or not they are even obtainable. The result is obvious. When everything is considered a right, finally nothing can be defended as a right.

The Fourth World Conference on Women and its draft Platform for Action offer prime

examples of this erosion. The adoption of this platform will undermine the pursuit of basic human rights. Even more troubling, it will also sacrifice efforts on behalf of women whose rights are the most repressed and abused in favor of the controversial social goals of Western gender feminists. This is a tragedy.

Let me cite several examples of the human rights flaws in the draft Platform for Action and the conference itself.

A. The draft Platform's commitment to universality is unsure.

Every reference to universal human rights is bracketed. If this document does not affirm universality it will mark a serious regression in the progress toward human rights within the international community.

B. The call to address the basic rights of women is blurred and minimized in the draft Platform's context of social engineering and expansive and questionable goals.

Serious abuses of rights of women, even when mentioned in the document, are diminished in the context of grandiose plans for re-engineering society. For example, achieving for all women the basic right to vote and participate in elections is a much more urgent task than working to ensure equality of outcomes such as equal numbers of men and women in all parliaments.

Let me offer examples of abuses of women that are mentioned in the draft Platform, but diminished by the larger context. There is the urgent need to combat prostitution and pornography, particularly involving children. A recent report of a religious group which operates ministries in Thailand to young women who have been forced into prostitution tells of girls as young as 12 sold to brothels. One child said the brothel owner would beat her to make her stop crying while she was "entertaining" customers.

Another example is slavery, which has not been eradicated but is still practiced in nations such as Mauritania and Sudan. A recent fact-finding team organized by Christian Solidarity International reports that local officials estimate that some 1,000 women and children have been taken into slavery in the last five years from one Sudanese town alone. Team members met a 14-year-old Sudanese girl who had been kidnapped and sold into slavery when she was seven. Yet the atrocity of human slavery gets only passing mention in the 121-page Platform for Action.

Such blatant and egregious human rights abuses are trivialized in the context of a document that takes on the grandiose aim to redefine gender roles in every society with no reference to biological differences between men and women.

C. The Platform will result in the expansion of the coercive and intrusive powers of governments and international agencies in the lives of individuals and families.

The goals of the draft Platform for Action—particularly (1) defining equality as outcome rather than opportunity and (2) obliterating any distinctive male or female roles—will lead inexorably to the expansion of the coercive power of governments. There is no question that this will contribute to anti-democratic practices. It will also undermine the rights of individuals and families (beginning with the rights of parents to train their own children).

D. Serious human rights abuses, such as religious repression, are ignored.

The most serious omission in the draft Platform is any acknowledgement of freedom of conscience or of religion for women. Throughout the document, religion is cited

as a source of repression of women. There is only one brief (and still bracketed) acknowledgement of the spiritual needs of women. But nowhere in 121 pages does the document call for religious freedom for women.

Women should have the right to engage in religious practice, to change their religion, and to propagate their religious faith, particularly to their children. Women who change their religion should be free of the threat of state-imposed divorce or the threat of having their children taken from them. The irony is that this conference on women is being held in a country which currently imprisons women for practicing their faith.

E. Holding the Fourth World Conference on Women in China also serves to undermine international human rights standards.

The Ecumenical Coalition on Women and Society is calling upon the U.S. government to boycott the Beijing women's conference unless two conditions are met. The first is that Harry Wu must be freed from prison. The second is that our government must obtain assurances from the Peoples Republic of China that U.S. citizens and other UN conference participants will enjoy the basic rights of freedom of conscience, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of peaceful assembly as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Women in non-governmental organizations going to Beijing are being told that they risk interrogation if they meet in groups of more than five, that they cannot meet in hotel rooms, they can't unfurl banners, they can't take in religious literature, they can't engage in corporate prayer outside a special tent, they can't take unregistered computers or fax machines into hotel rooms. How can we begin to discuss human rights in a climate in which those rights are ignored and abused? It would be unconscionable for the United States to participate in such a sham.

CONCLUSION

Women are brutally denied basic human rights in many parts of the world. Women suffer denial of educational opportunities and property rights, forced abortion and forced sterilization, genital mutilation, prostitution, rape, female infanticide, the threat of execution for apostasy or blasphemy, slavery—the list goes on and on.

The campaign to combat the truly horrible abuses of women is undermined by linking women's rights with highly questionable economic, social, and environmental theories. The Beijing agenda goes far beyond basic rights for women. The draft Platform claims that peace and development cannot be achieved unless women represent 50 percent of all national and international political and economic agencies. How or why women are uniquely capable of bringing in this utopia is never explained.

The danger of the Beijing women's conference is that it attempts sweeping and unnecessary social change—change that will undermine rather than enhance the rights of women. The draft Platform for Action equals or surpasses the Marxist-Leninist experiment in its ambition. The draft Platform for Action calls for the most intrusive, arrogant, and radical restructuring of the social order in human history—all on the baseless assumption that this will produce a just, prosperous, and peaceful world. I'm convinced of the opposite. It is the road to tyranny and oppression for women and for men.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, July 5, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

U.S. environmental policy is at a crossroads. On the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, we can take great pride in the advances that have been made in environmental protection. We have succeeded in reducing the levels of lead and other dangerous pollutants from the air. Lakes and rivers once so contaminated they could catch on fire, now support large fish populations. Endangered species like the eagle and the buffalo have been saved from extinction and are now thriving.

The challenge ahead is to build on these successes, but in smarter, more cost-effective ways. The objectives of our environmental laws are almost always worthy: cleaner air; safer drinking water; protection of endangered species and so forth. The issue is whether current laws go about achieving these goals in the most sensible way.

Cleaning up the environment has become much more complicated. At the time of the first Earth Day in 1970, there was a broad consensus that the environment was a mess and that the government had to do something about it. Today that consensus is much less firm. There are competing claims about the environment's condition, strong rivalries within the environmental movement, and active opposition to environmental regulation. Furthermore, the nature of environmental regulation is changing. Whereas in the past government regulators focused on large polluters, such as the local factory, new regulations aim to curb pollution from more diffuse sources, such as runoff from farm lands.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

Most environmental programs are of a "command and control" variety. The federal government sets regulations which the public and private sectors must follow. For example, the Clean Air Act mandates how much pollution factories can emit and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act directs industry to dispose of hazardous waste in a certain manner.

This regulatory approach can be credited with improving environmental quality over the last 25 years. The question now is whether it is the correct approach for the 21st Century. The current regulatory system offers the advantages of uniformity, administrative efficiency, and predictability, but it has drawbacks as well.

First, "command and control" can be too inflexible. It takes a one-size-fits-all approach to regulation. For example, the Safe Drinking Water Act requires all localities to test for a broad menu of contaminants even if there is little or no chance that a community's water system has been exposed to certain contaminants. Localities cannot pursue innovative alternatives that could achieve the same level of water quality at lower cost.

Second, the current system can be very expensive. Pollution controls, for example, cost an estimated \$26 billion per year. Protecting the environment will cost money—and in many cases, that money is well spent—but I am concerned we are not getting the best return on the dollar. Some programs don't work as well as they should. The

Superfund program, for example, was designed to clean up the nation's most hazardous waste sites, but too much funding has been wasted in overhead and litigation costs. Other laws mandate, at great cost, compliance from state and local governments or private enterprises, often without any financial assistance from the federal government.

Third, the "command and control" approach can be too complex. Our environmental statutes have evolved into a cumbersome system that tends to over-specify compliance strategies and mandate extensive reporting requirements.

NEW APPROACH

We need to rethink how we regulate the environment. This does not mean repealing current standards, but rather defining a sensible role for the federal government. There continues to be a federal role in protecting the environment. Many environmental problems, such as water and air pollution, cross state and even international borders, and, consequently, demand a national response. Furthermore, most Americans want federal leadership on environmental issues.

I believe the following principles should, where appropriate, guide future environmental policy with the objective of making regulation more flexible, less costly and less complex.

First, we should work to find market-based solutions to environmental problems. Such an approach might entail providing incentives to private business or local governments to meet or exceed environmental standards; or creating a system of marketable pollution permits. Market-driven solutions offer the promise of achieving environmental objectives in a way that is more cost-effective and less disruptive to industry.

Second, we should encourage cooperation between the federal government and the regulated community. Environmental regulation will always involve some tension between the two, but the federal government can take steps to minimize such conflict by working cooperatively with businesses, landowners and other private interests to find solutions.

Third, we should give more discretion to state and local governments in managing environmental problems. The federal government has the expertise to set national standards for environmental protection and compliance strategies. State and local governments, however, are often closer to the problems, and may have better ideas about solving them in innovative, cost-effective ways.

Fourth, we should allocate federal resources to the most pressing environmental problems, particularly in an era of tight federal budgets. Too many federal dollars are wasted on programs of marginal social or economic benefit. Federal agencies should conduct risk assessment, based on scientific evidence, and cost-benefit analysis before implementing new regulations.

CONCLUSION

Protecting the environment today demands something more than the standard regulatory prohibitions. The environmental movement has taught us the responsibility of protecting our own natural heritage. We now must reshape our efforts with a new openness to what works and what does not work in environmental protection.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF SISTER CITIES

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the United States Information Agency and their continued funding of the Sister Cities International Program. The USIA is responsible for our Government's overseas academic and cultural programs. They conduct a variety of activities to promote democratic and free market values and to foster international understanding of U.S. policies. The Sister Cities Program is a vital part of this effort. I am proud to demonstrate my support for this worthwhile cause, and as a former mayor, Alexandria, VA, I am pleased to submit for the RECORD the attached letter from the U.S. Conference of Mayors International Affairs Committee.

SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL,
June 17, 1995.

An Open Letter to Congress:

We, the undersigned Mayors of The U.S. Conference of Mayors' International Affairs Committee, urge our elected Representatives and Senators in the United States Congress to preserve important United States Information Agency (USIA) supported programs such as Sister Cities International that enable us to build bridges with communities overseas.

Through programs supported by the USIA, diverse elements from our communities—business, working people, educators, and many individuals and organizations—have forged strong economic and cultural ties with their international counterparts. These vibrant programs have afforded us the opportunity to create people to people relationships which have brought countless contributions to our communities.

The special relationships developed as a result of these international partnerships reap tangible returns for the modest resources that are used to sustain them. Across the United States, substantial construction projects, special trade relationships, provided direct access to foreign markets for American goods and services, and increased tourism are just a few of the ways they have boosted our local economies and enhanced international understanding.

The lives of our citizens and their children, in their homes and in their classrooms, are enriched by interacting with people from our sister cities. It is important for the people of our communities to gain a better understanding of just how interdependent our world is. For some of our citizens this may be the only exposure they will ever receive to people who live in other countries.

We are united in our belief that for many reasons our communities are strengthened when we are internationally engaged. We call upon you to maintain the modest funding USIA currently receives to support these programs.

Sincerely,

Patricia S. Ticer, Mayor of Alexandria, VA; Jerry E. Abramson, Mayor of Louisville, KY; Cardell Cooper, Mayor of East Orange, NJ; Susan S. Weiner, Mayor of Savannah, GA; Meyera E. Oberndorf, Mayor of Virginia Beach, VA; Leonard M. Creary, Mayor of Lyndhurst, OH; Kane Ditto, Mayor of Jackson, MS; Mike Johanns, Mayor of

Lincoln, NB; Mary Rhodes, Mayor of Corpus Christi, TX; Joseph P. Ganim, Mayor of Bridgeport, CT; Saul N. Ramirez, Jr., Mayor of Laredo, TX; Patsy Jo Hilliard, Mayor of East Point, GA; Richard A. Lang, Mayor of Modesto, CA; Raul J. Valdes-Fauli, Mayor of Coral Gables, FL; James S. Whitaker, Mayor of Lynchburg, VA; Jack Geraghty, Mayor of Spokane, WA; Neil G. Giuliano, Mayor of Tempe, AZ; Raul G. Villaronga, Mayor of Killeen, TX; Dennis W. Archer, Mayor of Detroit, MI;

Norm Coleman, Mayor of St. Paul, MN; Gus Morrison, Mayor of Fremont, CA; Dr. William E. Ward, Mayor of Chesapeake, VA; J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor of Elizabeth, NJ; H. Brent Coles, Mayor of Boise, ID; Gerald Wright, Mayor of West Valley City, UT; Martin J. Chavez, Mayor of Albuquerque, NM; Chuck Hazama, Mayor of Rochester, MN; Ann Azari, Mayor of Fort Collins, CO; Martha S. Wood, Mayor of Winston-Salem, NC; Charles V. Smith, Mayor of Westminster, CA; Robert A. Pastrick, Mayor of East Chicago, IN; Lynn F. Pett, Mayor of Murray, UT; Charles A. DeVaney, Mayor of Augusta, GA; Peter A. Clavette, Mayor of Burlington, VT; and Charles E. Box, Mayor of Rockford, IL.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD C.
STEIN, M.D.

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Richard Stein, M.D., who is retiring after more than 32 years of service as an outstanding physician with Kaiser Permanente in San Rafael and Santa Rosa, CA, which are located within the congressional district I am privileged to represent. Dr. Stein was Physician-in-Charge at the Kaiser Permanente Clinic when it came to Santa Rosa in 1980, and since 1989, he has served as Physician-in-Chief. Dr. Stein has been a cornerstone in Kaiser's outstanding record of service here in northern California and, in particular, he has been instrumental in overseeing the provision of quality medical care services for many residents of Sonoma County.

Because Dr. Stein has worked with Kaiser since 1962, he has played an integral role in the development of the innovative health maintenance organization which Kaiser pioneered in our country. I am proud of the leadership that Kaiser has taken in creating a healthcare system that is accessible, affordable, and high quality, and recognize that it takes the vision, courage, and hard work of people like Dr. Stein to make these ideals a reality.

After graduating from the New York University Medical School in 1956, Dr. Stein started his medical career by serving his country as the Chief of Pediatrics for the United States Air Force, 3970th USAF Hospital. In addition to his many years of leadership with Kaiser, Dr. Stein has served on a variety of community and medical association boards and is currently a member of the Sonoma County Medical Association Board.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Stein is a superb example of the excellence and dedication of our healthcare professionals who have provided our Nation with the best healthcare services in the world. As we celebrate Dr. Stein's 32 years of service to this community, I wish to recognize his commitment to the people of Sonoma County, and to thank him for his long record of service to all of us.

**MORTON BAHR: LEADER OF THE
AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT**

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the outstanding leaders of the American labor movement, as well as a dear friend. Morton Bahr has been extraordinarily influential and effective in fighting to advance the cause of the American worker. For Morty, greater worker empowerment has been a lifelong commitment, a commitment that culminated with this election to the presidency of the Communications Workers of America in an especially demanding period for the communications industry, as well as organized labor.

Morty has made worker training and education programs a top priority in his struggle for a better educated and more productive workforce. Moreover, he has sought to bridge the gap between management and workers by bringing the workers into the decisionmaking arena, contributing, in this way, to the development of a more responsible and efficient labor force.

The globalization of the economy poses a unique challenge to the American economy in general and the American worker in particular. Morty, through his membership in the Executive Committee of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone International, has managed to represent the interests of the American workers and secure their competitiveness in the world market.

Morty, in addition to being the champion of the C.W.A., has made invaluable contributions to many worthwhile causes. As one of the founders and a cochairman of the "Jobs with Justice" community-labor action coalition group, as vice chairman of the United Way Board of Governors and also as an executive committee member of the Democratic National Committee, he has offered service to the economic and political life of the community as a whole.

People have often referred to Morty as one of the most influential leaders in the American labor movement, a designation which is fully accurate and well deserved. I rise today to honor Morty's many wonderful accomplishments and ask my colleagues to join me in extending our heartfelt appreciation for his leadership.

**IMPROVEMENT MANAGEMENT OF
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to facilitate improvement management of the National Park Service. The bill I am introducing today amends two separate statutes, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act and the 1970 Act to Improve the Administration of the National Park System.

The first title of the bill clarifies the existing authority of the National Park Service to make minor boundary revisions. Currently, the National Park Service has some generic authority to make such boundary adjustment "is an arbitrary one made on a case-by-case basis." In 1991, Congress passed legislation to authorize a 19-acre donation of land to Ocmulgee National Monument. In 1992, the National Park Service accepted a 125-acre donation at Shiloh National Military Park without any legislation. What is needed is legislation to define what is meant by a minor adjustment to ensure consistency and to relieve Congress from spending time on relatively insignificant and noncontroversial legislation.

The second title to this bill authorizes the National Park Service to enter into agreements to provide essential facilities for park administration, visitor use and park employee housing on non-Federal lands. Currently authorities restrict the use of Federal moneys on non-Federal lands and frustrate efforts to initiate partnership projects on adjacent non-Federal lands.

For example, park administrative and visitor center locations may often make better sense and serve the public better on non-Federal lands. These locations open opportunities for partnerships, such as the recent proposal at Rocky Mountain National Park to provide a visitor center on private land next to the park at no construction cost to the Federal Government.

I urge my colleagues to support both of these good Government measures to improve the management of the National Park System.

**TRIBUTE TO THE JANE DOUGLAS
CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SO-
CIETY, DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION'S CON-
STITUTION WEEK**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Jane Douglas Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution for designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week.

Constitution Week commemorates the 208th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Daughters of the American Revolution understand the importance of the provisions and principles contained in the Constitution. Recognition of this historic event is an opportunity for all Americans to realize the achievements of the Framers of the Constitution and the rights, privileges, and responsibilities it affords.

Again, I commend the Jane Douglas Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, for its genuine effort in urging all our citizens to reflect during Constitution Week on the many benefits of our Federal Constitution and American citizenship.

**TRIBUTE TO CHICAGO RIDGE
MAYOR, EUGENE L. SIEGEL**

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Eugene L. Siegel, an outstanding public leader and resident of the third Congressional District in Illinois. Gene Siegel has dedicated 20 years of public service to the community of Chicago Ridge.

Mr. Siegel began his political career in 1963 when he was appointed as the deputy coroner for the Cook County Coroner's Office. After serving in that position for 8 years, Gene accepted another appointment as the assistant chief to the Cook County Sheriff's Office. In 1987, he accepted yet another appointment as administrative assistant to the State Treasurer's Office. Mayor Siegel was also a member of the Cook County Criminal Justice Commission for 6 years; one of two mayors in all of Cook County serving in that capacity. He is also a past associate of the Crisis Center for South Suburbia.

In 1975, Gene was elected as part-time mayor of Chicago Ridge to fill an unexpired term. He was re-elected in 1977, 1981, 1985, 1989, and in 1993, was elected as a full-time mayor. At the present time, Mayor Siegel is serving as vice-chairman of the Southwest Council of Mayors, and is the legislative chairman for the Southwest Conference of Local Government. Also, he is serving as vice-president and a member of the board of directors for the Illinois Municipal League. He is a member of the Midway Airport Task Force and a member of the Cook County advisory board on community development block grant applications.

So far, during his tenure as mayor, Mayor Siegel has accomplished a tremendous amount on behalf of the residents of Chicago Ridge. Gene created a solvent tax base by instrumenting the development of the Chicago Ridge Mall in 1981, and the Commons of Chicago Ridge in 1988. These developments allow his administration to hold the line on property owner's taxes and still permit such village improvements as the improvement of Ridgeland Avenue to establish commercial land use and the installation of an adequate water system with a two-million-gallon reservoir and a pumping station. The mayor has worked diligently to make Chicago Ridge a beautiful and safe place to live and raise a

family. Under his administration, countless streets have been paved with storm sewers, curbs, gutters, and modern street lighting and traffic signals have been installed at hazardous intersections. Presently, the mayor is working on development projects that include the Industrial Park, a 130 acre parcel of property, and the Chicago Ridge Commons TIF Extension.

Mayor Siegel is a dedicated public servant who has worked to build a genuine community feeling in Chicago Ridge. Throughout his 20 years as mayor, Gene has maintained an open door policy for all his constituents and employees. Also, he and his wife have been residents of Chicago Ridge for 39 years.

I ask my colleagues to join the residents of Chicago Ridge and myself in expressing our gratitude to Mayor Siegel for his many years of devotion to public service. I look forward to working with Mayor Siegel for many more years to come.

THE QUEEN MARY: FROM MAJESTIC PASSENGER LINER TO GALLANT TROOPSHIP OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, as the our Nation honors those whose sacrifices and dedication brought an end to the Second World War, we must also include the *Queen Mary*. Just as devoted as those who carried rifles in combat or wore riveters' masks on the home front, the *Queen Mary* sailed above and beyond the call of duty with her wartime assignment. Her combat troopship uniform of camouflage gray paint may have temporarily hidden her normally glamorous fittings, but she—because those who toiled above and below her decks—had a heart and soul that showed through that dull exterior and served as a beacon of hope and inspiration in those dark days.

It is a privilege to join with those who are honoring the *Queen Mary* for her wartime service. I have included a detailed history of her wartime activities in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that generations to come may know of her contributions in the fight to preserve freedom. May she continue to serve an inspiration to us all.

THE QUEEN MARY: FROM MAJESTIC PASSENGER LINER TO GALLANT TROOPSHIP OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

THE LAUNCHING OF THE QUEEN MARY

In May of 1930, Britain's Cunard Steamship Company awarded John Brown and Company of Clydebank, Scotland, the task of constructing what was being hailed as the "ultimate ship." Less than a year later, production was stopped due to Cunard's financial hardships. With the help of the British Government and some creative financing, John Brown and Company was able to continue production on the Cunard ship, and the Royal Mail Steamer, christened the *Queen Mary*, was launched at Clydebank on September 26, 1934.

It would be another 18 months before she would make her first transatlantic voyage. During that period workers labored night

and day to install engines, fittings and the furnishings that would ensure the *Queen Mary's* reign as the world's ultimate passenger liner. When the ship set out on her maiden voyage from Southampton on May 27, 1936, she was a floating resort boasting five dining areas and lounges, two cocktail bars and swimming pools, a grand ballroom, a squash court and a small, but well equipped hospital. She carried some of the world's most rich and famous passengers, from the Duke and Duchess of Windsor to many of Hollywood's screen idols. She was considered by the elite as the only civilized way to travel.

THE TRANSFORMATION INTO TROOPSHIP

When she docked in New York Harbor in September of 1939, the civilian passengers she carried would be her last for years to come. With the outbreak of the Second World War, the *Queen Mary* was called up for duty.

To transform her into a troopship, she was stripped of her signature Cunard red, black and white and slapped with a coat of camouflage gray. Placed in storage, along the Hudson River, were her finer amenities including several miles of plush carpeting, expensive art deco furnishings, and more than 200 cases of crystal, china and silverware. The luxuries were replaced by an underwater sound detection system, a single four-inch gun, a mine sweeping protective system, and a degaussing girdle meant to neutralize magnetic mines. More than 2,000 stateroom doors were removed in order to install tiers of wooden bunks and rows of canvas hammocks. Once posh shops and boutiques were now the site of military offices.

Future refits would include the installation of several thousand standing room bunks to the ship's Promenade Deck, first-class swimming pool, and ladies' drawing room. Additional toilet facilities would be added as well as storage areas to house the several hundred tons of food and water that would be consumed by the many troops. Enhancements to the armament and the anti-aircraft defenses. Included a 40mm cannon, a 24 single-barrel 20mm cannon, six three-inch high/low angle guns and four sets of two-inch rocket launchers.

Any trace of elegance, except her graceful silhouette, had vanished.

THE GRAY GHOST ERA

The *Queen Mary* was the largest and fastest troopship to sail, capable of transporting as many as 16,000 troops at a speed of 30 knots. Even Adolf Hitler couldn't stop her, despite his offer of \$250,000 and the Iron Cross to any U-Boat captain that could sink her. During the war, The Grey Ghost would encounter several close calls with the enemy, however, she would always manage to outwit the combined military intelligence of Germany, Italy and Japan.

After the United States entered the war near the end of 1941, the *Queen Mary*—now fondly referred to as The Grey Ghost—began transporting American troops. On August 1, she successfully carried a record number of 16,000 troops and crew across the Atlantic, but her second trip of similar proportions would not be so fortunate. On September 27, 1941, The Grey Ghost left New York Harbor bound for the United Kingdom. Five days later she was nearing Scotland when the bridge watch sighted the British cruiser H.M.S. Curacao, a 4,200-ton veteran of the First World War. It was now being used as an anti-aircraft escort ship. The Grey Ghost's Senior First Officer became increasingly concerned about the Curacao's proximity

and ordered that the *Queen Mary* turn slightly away from the approaching ship. In a split second, the massive troopship sliced the smaller vessel in half. The Grey Ghost was ordered not to stop for any reason and she carried on despite the disaster. She sustained sizable damage to her stern, while the Curacao sank rapidly. Of the 439 aboard the Curacao, only 101 men survived.

In June of 1943, The Grey Ghost began her duty as a GI shuttle, making transatlantic crossings on a schedule that resembled her pre-war party days. The six day GI "shuttle" had thousands of men passing time playing card and dice games, watching nightly films or reading books. Those with more religious ties spent time in the ship's Protestant, Catholic or Jewish chapels. Daily lifeboat and abandon ship drills also made the monotony more bearable, and some units occupied their time with training lectures and exercise. Eating and sleeping schedules were rotated in order to accommodate the troops. The elegant First-Class Dining Room became a 24-hour mess hall.

The Grey Ghost also served as a means of transporting prisoners, patients and "very important passengers." Her most notable wartime passenger was British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Churchill and his entourage of government officials were housed in staterooms outfitted with the trademark Cunard luxuries. Instead of having to stomach such wartime staples as chipped beef on toast, Churchill and his staff savored such specialties as macaroni Bolognese, Navarin of Lamb and Corn Ox Tongue. Cigars and dinner mints, displayed on silver trays bearing Churchill's family coat of arms, were passed butler-style for all to enjoy. Despite the indulgence, Churchill and his staff maintained a grueling schedule aboard. Plans were orchestrated for an allied invasion; aerial offensives against Hitler were worked through, and many other strategies were in place before the ship reached its destination.

THE END OF THE WAR

On May 7, 1945, Nazi Germany surrendered ending the Second World War in Europe and in August, Japan would be forced to do the same. Almost immediately, The Grey Ghost began transporting American soldiers home. As the ship approached New York Harbor, troops swarmed the upper decks to get their first glimpse of the Statue of Liberty. Within two months, the troopship had returned more than 31,000 American soldiers to their native land, and the numbers would increase dramatically as similar voyages were made.

The ship's final tour of duty was one of her most pleasant, "Operation Diaper" was announced in January 1946, and more than 66,000 women and children were to be transported to their new homes in America and Canada. Before she could begin her "Bride and Baby" voyages, the ship had to be demilitarized in order to comfortably accommodate the women and children. Each of the staterooms was equipped with six comfortable beds—compared to the 12 to 16 standing room bunks occupied by the troops. Additional cabins, which would house expectant mothers, were installed with call bells connected to the ship's hospital. The functional mess halls—designed to move the troops in and out—were restored to relaxing dining areas complete with starched linens, china, crystal and silverware. The ocean liner was also given a clean sweep from stern to stem as engines, boilers and steering equipment were examined. Although her exterior was still painted a dull gray, the ship took on an air of elegance as she prepared for yet another historic voyage.

In February of 1946, the Queen Mary joined the "Bride and Baby" fleet and traveled from Southampton to New York in just five days. The war brides enjoyed an array of lectures, classes and social gatherings such as cooking and sewing classes; English language lessons; afternoon teas; bingo games and dancing lessons. The Queen Mary traveled more than 31,000 miles and transported more than 12,000 war brides and their children to America before embarking on several "Bride and Baby" voyages to Canada. Overall, the Queen Mary safely transported nearly 25 percent of all service dependents brought from Europe following the end of the war.

THE LEGEND

After transporting more than 800,000 troops, traveling 600,000 miles and playing a major role in virtually every Allied campaign, the Queen Mary retired from her 79-month military career. In the course of her duties, the Queen Mary had become a shipping pioneer. She was the first to carry 10,000 people at one time, the first to transport an entire American military division in a single crossing, and the first and only ship to ever carry 16,500 persons on a single voyage. The Queen Mary was constantly hunted by the enemy, but was never attacked. She never had to fire her guns in anger and never lost a single passenger to enemy action.

FLEXIBILITY FOR SCHOOLS TO MEET THE DIETARY GUIDELINES

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, last year the Congress enacted changes to the National School Lunch Program and required schools to meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans under the school lunch and breakfast programs.

Schools were allowed to use nutrient-based menu planning, assisted nutrient-based menu planning or a food-based menu system—which was the only method of menu planning used under prior law—as long as they met the dietary guidelines.

On Tuesday, June 13, 1995, the Department of Education published their final regulation on the School Meal Initiatives for Healthy Americans.

Schools throughout the Nation are concerned about the implementation of these final regulations. Of special concern are changes to the food-based menu system which will add from 10 cents to 17 cents to the cost of school meals. The reason for the increased cost is the requirement to add additional servings of grains, bread, and fruits and vegetables. Even schools currently meeting the dietary guidelines under the previous food-based menu plan would have to enact such changes. Estimates are that this will add \$550 million per year to school costs—just for food. The alternative would be to use the nutrient standard menu plan, which would require schools to make a significant investment in computer hardware and require extensive training and technical assistance to implement the new software and procedures associated with this plan.

The legislation introduced today, will continue to require schools to meet the Dietary

Guidelines for Americans. However, it will permit schools to use any reasonable approach to meet the dietary guidelines, including nutrient-based menu planning, assisted nutrient-based menu planning or a food-based menu system contained in the regulations issued by the Department. This legislation will neither negate nor postpone the requirement that schools implement the Dietary Guidelines for Americans as currently required by law.

This is sound policy and reflects my support for providing students with healthy meals which both meet the dietary guidelines and which provide schools broad flexibility in designing menus which appeal to students.

ELECTIONS IN ARMENIA—REPORT OF OBSERVERS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the Republic of Armenia held national elections. The country's citizens were called to the polls to decide both who would serve in their National Assembly and whether they would adopt a new constitution.

Because this was Armenia's first post-Soviet election for these purposes—a President was democratically elected in 1991—there was widespread international interest. Additionally, controversy occurred in electoral preliminaries that prompted a widespread wish that the process be internationally monitored.

At the request of the Armenian Embassy, I was invited to join as an observer. Although commitments in my own schedule precluded personal participation, two members of my senior staff agreed to my request that they take part.

My decision to be so represented in the Armenian electoral process had a particular basis in my constituency. California's San Joaquin Valley, and especially the community of Fresno, much of which I represent, is the home of many American citizens whose forebears came to this land from Armenia. Thus, the term, "diaspora," is heard to define the settlement of Armenians in the 19th Congressional District and other parts of America.

The report prepared by my staff members, Mr. Speaker, I believe is worthy of being examined by our colleagues, and I ask that it be entered in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD accordingly. In doing so, I also want to add my appreciation to the individuals and institutions that their report notes afforded assistance in conducting their mission.

Finally, I wish to offer special thanks to the Lincy Foundation for covering the costs of travel and lodging for my staff members. By doing so, as is permitted by House ethics rules, the Foundation made it possible for an important international undertaking to go forward without its having to be a burden on the public purse.

REPORT TO THE CONGRESSMAN

(By Will Dwyer II, Counsel; and Steve Samuelian, District Director)

INTRODUCTION

The maxim that the past is prologue certainly helps an understanding of modern Armenia.

More than two millennia ago, the then kingdom of Armenia controlled an empire that stretched from the Mediterranean to the Caucasus. But, it fell first under the Byzantine Empire, followed by the Muslim Turks, then the Mongols, the Ottomans, and the Soviets.

Subordination to and maltreatment by foreign powers produced an intense national sensibility. Indeed, the Armenian-American author, playwright, and novelist William Saroyan (born in Fresno in 1898) captured that consciousness in perhaps his most famous quotation about his ancestors, "When two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a new Armenia."

In this century, Armenia and her people have been put to tortured tests. An estimated 1,750,000 Armenians were massacred or deported by the Turks in and around 1915. With the fall of the Ottoman Empire, Armenia was briefly independent from 1918 until it was occupied by the Red Army in 1920, ultimately being incorporated into the USSR in 1936.

The so-called "glasnost" or openness policy that was adopted by the Soviet Union in the mid-1980s saw Armenian national identity reawakened. A declaration of independence was made in August 1990 but it was ignored by Moscow.

Armenia boycotted the March 1991 USSR referendum on the preservation of the Soviet Union, and held its own referendum in September 1991. After 94% of the Armenian people voted for secession from the USSR, independence was formally proclaimed.

By March 1992, Armenia had joined the new Commonwealth of Independent States, been accorded diplomatic recognition by the USA, been admitted into the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and become a member of the United Nations.

What democracy has added to Armenia, two neighboring countries and nature, itself, have been busy subtracting.

Energy supplies and raw materials do not flow readily into Armenia because its traditional foe Turkey imposes a border blockade on the west as does Azerbaijan on the east. Those embargoes aggravate the national need to rebuild from an earthquake that hit Armenia on December 7, 1988, destroying 48 villages, and leaving 25,000 people dead and more than half a million homeless.

The Armenian conflict with Azerbaijan is rooted in many centuries of Christian Armenian and Shiite Muslim Azeri enmity over Nagorno-Karabakh, an autonomous region in southwestern Azerbaijan. Eighty percent of the enclave's total population of 193,000 are ethnic Armenians.

Since 1988, Nagorno-Karabakh has been in rebellion against the Republic of Azerbaijan. The conflict has claimed more than 15,000 lives and left an estimated 1 million people homeless. In 1994, Azerbaijan allowed Russian troops into its territory to help bring an end to the fighting.

THE ELECTION

Against this backdrop of history, culture, and economic tribulation, the adult (18 and older) members of the 3.6 million Armenian population, a third of whom live in the ancient capital city of Yerevan, were called to the 1,590 polling places of this landlocked, Maryland-sized country on July 5, 1995. (The official number of eligible voters was stated to be 2,189,804.)

Voters made their decisions on three ballots:

1. A referendum ballot regarding adoption or rejection of the Constitution (adoption requires a simple majority as long as the votes

in favor equal at least one-third of all listed voters).

2. A candidate ballot on the "majoritarian" system providing for the election on 150 National Assembly Deputies (one candidate is elected in each district provided he or she receives a majority of the votes cast in the district and the total votes received is at least 25 percent of the total votes cast).

3. A bloc ballot for political public organization on the "proportional" system providing for the country-wide election of 40 additional National Assembly Deputies (votes are cast not for individuals but for a political party that has selected a list of candidates to fill any seats won by it, based on a percentage share of all votes cast as long as their bloc receives a minimum of five percent).

Post-election reports by the Armenian government relate that "an estimated 65 percent of the eligible voters cast ballots for about 1,500 candidates who were campaigning for 150 majoritarian seats of the 190-seat parliament." Preliminary figures indicate the pro-government Hanrapetutun (Republic) bloc gained "a clear majority" of the parliamentary seats. The same reports also say that the Constitution was favored by 68 percent of the voters, assuring its adoption.

The fairness and freeness of Armenia's election are likely to be debate sources for some time to come. There is little doubt that during the run-up to Election Day, the banning of a leading opposition party, closing of the newspapers, the disqualification of several of the opposition parties, and other deprivations of human rights raised serious questions about fair play.

In addition, we share a concern that even if the government has evidence of wrongdoing on the part of several Dashnak party leaders (as the government claims) that may not be sufficient justification for banning the entire party from participation in elections. It certainly is not justification for the closing of several newspapers, many of which were not even Dashnak, but the newspapers of other opposition parties that are not included in the government's allegations. It also needs noting that one of the newspapers closed is the undisputed leading newspaper in the Republic of Armenia with the most circulation and readers.

Where one observed actual balloting played a part in judging how well or poorly the system functioned. At some of the precincts we monitored, voting seemed to proceed smoothly. At others, objections were heard over procedural shortcomings in polling place practices. For example, Steve was witness to posters on the doors of several polling stations urging a "yes" vote on the government supported constitution.

We believe that general unfamiliarity with conducting elections contributed to difficulties of a mechanical kind. We also are of the view that lack of training and organization contributed to the election-day problems.

We share the concern issued by the U.S. State Department on January 18 about the pre-election closing of newspapers and banning of parties. Furthermore, we share the concern that many international organizations have expressed that the jailed opposition party leaders have been held for over six months without any evidence being brought forth by the government. As well, the fact that the prisoners have not been allowed visits by their lawyers or family members is a cause for concern. These actions do not seem to accord with democratic principles of due process.

Let it also be said that we recognize that Armenia is a young nation and that its current government faces difficult circumstances that include two unjust blockades and an economy that has been burdened for over seventy years with socialist policies. In addition, the tradition of closed elections in Armenia makes it difficult for the Armenian government to immediately and instantly make Armenia a Western U.S.-style democracy. The government has made some notable progress on economic reforms towards private property ownership and a market economy; it deserves recognition for these achievements.

Our observer work leads both of us to endorse, without reservation or condition, the content of the two-page press release issued by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation in the wake of the election. We also are aware that many of the monitors with whom the two of us collaborated during our Armenian activity also accept this statement as constituting an objective evaluation worthy of broad appropriation. To that end, we incorporate it in our report hereat:

[Press Release 6-7-95]

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN ARMENIA

A delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly monitored the parliamentary elections in Armenia on 5 July 1995 at the invitation of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia. The Delegation, which was led by Annette Just, Member of the Parliament of Denmark, included 13 parliamentarians from eight countries and four members from the International Secretariat. Countries represented in the delegation include: the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, the Netherlands, Romania and Sweden.

During their visit to Armenia, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation met with representatives from registered and unregistered political parties, the mass media, the Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, the President of the Supreme Council, the President of Armenia, the Chairman of the Supreme Court, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, members of national minority groups, and non-governmental organizations.

On election day, members of the Delegation visited 15 administrative regions of Armenia, including Yerevan, and 60 polling stations, including their opening and closings.

The Delegation congratulates the government of Armenia for holding its first multiparty elections and recognizes this effort as a first and vital step towards democratic development. The Delegation also strongly encourages the citizenry of Armenia to participate in any subsequent rounds of voting that may be necessary to seat the new Parliament. In order for Armenia to take further steps in the democratization process, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation believes it is vital for the population of the republic to continue to participate fully and peacefully in all aspects of the electoral process. If election results or procedures are disputed, they must be protested through the appropriate legal channels and exhausted in the appeals process.

It is the opinion of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation that a lack of democratic traditions (both in governmental bodies and in the politically active population) in Armenia may have caused some difficulties in the electoral process in the republic. However, these were not determined to be the sole reason for all of the problems which were observed. The delegation consid-

ers that the elections, while generally well run in terms of procedures on the day of the elections, were also seriously marred by other pre-election conditions. Therefore, the delegation believes that the elections may only be considered by international standards as generally free but not fair.

The government is to be commended for allowing large numbers of domestic monitors to be an integral part of the election process. Inviting international monitors to observe elections is also an important step in opening up the electoral process. The following areas were highlighted as significant problems by Delegation members calling into question the fairness of the overall process (particularly in the pre-election period):

(1) *Level Playing Field*—(a) A six-month ban on the activities of an entire political party (as opposed to individuals accused of crimes) resulted in the removal of a major opposition voice from the elections process.

(b) A significant number of accusations of violence and intimidation against independent candidates (to encourage their withdrawal from the election) were heard by the delegation from a sufficient number of sources to raise reasonable speculation that such instances occurred.

(2) *Election Law and Implementation*—(a) The system to resolve complaints and grievances within the time required was insufficient to address the large number of appeals that were made. This potentially precluded some candidates from participating in the elections.

(3) *Election Management & Conduct*—(a) A lack of standardized procedures and training of local polling station workers resulted in disparities in conditions between polling sites. Although this may not have been intentional on the part of authorities, it belied the fact that apparently no effort was made to educate officials on correct procedures for democratic elections.

(b) Voter lists appeared to be grossly outdated and included large numbers of voters who no longer reside in those districts.

(4) *Voter Information, Media Access & Coverage*—(a) Although technical problems and a lack of media sources exist in Armenia, insufficient press coverage resulted in significantly large numbers of voters not knowing anything about candidates, platforms, or referendum issues.

(b) The heavy involvement of the executive branch of government, through the broadcasting and distribution of biased information to voters and displayed at polling sites, greatly overshadowed opposition points on view regarding the referendum and the campaign.

The Delegation wishes to note that although procedural and technical violations were witnessed in some polling stations, this generally appeared to be due to poor organization by local officials. Proper procedures at polling stations were observed to be more the rule than the exception. Adherence to the one-man one-vote principle was generally observed, as was the sanctity of the secret ballot. The Delegation also wishes to emphasize that a multiple number of parties and points of view were represented in the election and there appeared to be a definite choice between candidates. This combination of circumstances allowed for generally free election activity on July 5. Pre-election flaws, however, marred overall election fairness.

Although the conduct of the elections and referendum in Armenia was not perfect, the Delegation urges the Armenian population to continue to strive for the republic's future

democratic development through continued high turnouts in subsequent run-off elections.

The Delegation will immediately send its initial findings to the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, currently meeting in Ottawa, Canada, and will present its final report to the subsequent Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Stockholm, Sweden, scheduled for July 2-6, 1996.

Further information can be obtained from Mr. Eric Rudenshiold, Program Director of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly: Raadhusstraede 1, 1466-Copenhagen K, Tel +45 3332 9400, Fax +45 3332 5505

Congressman, it was an honor to represent you and your constituent interest in officially observing the recent Armenian elections. Thank you for permitting us the opportunity.

In closing, we add our appreciation to:

The Lincy Foundation for its generosity in making our mission possible without cost to American taxpayers, especially Jim Aljian for handling details superbly.

The Armenian Assembly of America, especially Tim Jemal of its Washington office and Edith Khachatourian and her staff in Yerevan for visit logistics.

The Armenia National Committee of America, especially Chris Hekimian, its Governmental Affairs Director, for so helpfully preparing us with information.

The Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, especially Ambassador Rouben Shugarian and First Secretary Tigran Martirosian for visa and related help.

The Armenian Technology Group (ATG), especially Executive Director Varoujan Der Simonian of Fresno and Chairman Dr. Arthur O. Hazarabedian of Lafayette, California for effective examples of assistance.

The American Embassy in Yerevan, especially Ambassador Harry J. Gilmore, Deputy Chief of Mission Ted Nist, and USAID Representative (Caucasus Regional Office) Fred E. Winch for hospitality and briefings.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 20, 1995, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 21

9:30 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine foreign tax issues, including the deferral of income tax on the earnings of U.S. businesses operating overseas, section 956A of the Internal Revenue Code, and the tax treatment of passive foreign investment companies and foreign sales corporations; to be followed by hearings on pending nominations.

SD-215

Rules and Administration

Business meeting, to mark up S. Res. 126, to amend the Senate gift rule.

SR-301

10:00 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain activities of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms of the Department of the Treasury, and recent events in Tennessee.

SH-216

11:00 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on the nomination of Mark D. Gearan, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Peace Corps.

SD-419

JULY 24

10:00 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine child pornography on the Internet.

SD-226

JULY 25

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 45, to require the Secretary of the Interior to sell Federal real and personal property held in connection with activities carried out under the Helium Act, S. 738, to prohibit the Bureau of Mines from refining helium and selling refined helium, and to dispose of the United States helium reserve, and S. 898, to cease operation of the government helium refinery, authorize facility and crude helium disposal, and cancel the helium debt.

SD-366

Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management and The District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 946, to facilitate, encourage, and provide for efficient and effective acquisition and use of modern information technology by executive agencies.

SD-342

Indian Affairs

To resume hearings on S. 487, to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

SD-G50

10:00 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine issues relating to prison reform.

SD-226

11:00 a.m.

Appropriations

Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee
Business meeting, to mark up H.R. 2020, making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996.

SD-192

2:00 p.m.

Foreign Relations

East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the current status of United States-SINO relations.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 929, to abolish the Department of Commerce.

SD-342

JULY 26

9:30 a.m.

Labor and Human Resources

To hold hearings to examine emerging infections and their impact on society.

SD-430

10:00 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine punitive damages reform.

SD-226

2:00 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To resume hearings to examine the Chechnya crisis, focusing on prospects for peace.

2200 Rayburn Building

JULY 27

9:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings on S. 929, to abolish the Department of Commerce.

SD-342

10:00 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

AUGUST 1

2:00 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings on pending nominations.

SD-226

AUGUST 2

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by oversight hearings on the implementation of the Indian Tribal Justice Act (P.L. 103-176).

SR-485

CANCELLATIONS

JULY 20

9:00 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Business meeting, to continue to mark up proposed legislation to strengthen

